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Intellectual Discourse

Volume 28, Issue 1, 23 June 2020, Pages 35-59

Mediation and interreligious discourse : Prospects and challenges in resolving interreligious skirmishes in Malaysia (Article)

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Abstract

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This article aims to promote mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism to deal with interreligious skirmishes taking place in Malaysia. This is in view of the increasing statistics of interreligious disputes reported in the media. The reason for recommending interreligious mediation is due to its constructive nature in peacebuilding initiatives and its successful stories across the globe. The article discusses the potential actors of religious mediators and their requirements as well as the processes and conditions for a successful mediation. The article also highlights the need for certified training to make a credible mediator. Using mainly textual research, the article managed to gather and analyse the meaning and concept, historical background and the structure of mediation. Since mediation is new in Malaysia, the article found that the government's role is crucial in its institutionalization; hence the article proposes that the Ministry of National Unity leads the initiative. © 2020 International Islamic University Malaysia. All rights reserved.

SciVal Topic Prominence ⓘ

Topic: General Elections | British Malaya | Islam

Prominence percentile: 84.730 ⓘ

Author keywords

Interreligious

Keyword: Mediation

Peacebuilding

Religious Coexistence

Religious disputes

Funding details

Funding sponsor	Funding number	Acronym
United States Institute of Peace See opportunities by USIP↗		USIP

Funding text

Governmental intervention at this initial stage is highly required, particularly in terms of providing the relevant resources, including selecting credible traditional and religious leaders to be trained as professional mediators with government example of a governmental role is in the establishment of The Network for Religious and rT ol Peacemakers (Network), whereby part of the funding comes from the Ministry for Foreign fairs of Finland. Af Some

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portion of the funding also come from KAICIID Dialogue Centre and the United States Institute of Peace as well as supported by in-kind contributions by several Network members and other external funders. The funds are channelled to Network activities through the Secretariat hosted by the Finn Church Aid (Network, n.d.). The government may also help to expose them to local, national, regional and international networking to enhance the visibility of the interreligious mediators for continuous learning and training opportunities. It is commend... View all ▾

ISSN: 01284878

Source Type: Journal




Original language: English

Document Type: Article

Publisher: International Islamic University Malaysia

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